

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 26, 2004. Claims 28, 32-35, 42, and 46-57 are presented for examination, of which Claims 28 and 42 are in independent form. Claims 28, 33, 42, 46, 49, 52, and 54-57 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 28, 33, 34, 42, 46, 49, 50 and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from U.S. Patent 5,764,278 (Nagao) in view of U.S. Patent 4,710,917 (Tompkins et al.). In addition, Claims 32, 35, 47, 48, 51 and 53-57 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being obvious from *Nagao* in view of *Tompkins* and U.S. Patent 6,049,823 (Hwang).

Independent Claim 28 is directed to a communication apparatus that comprises a first and a second communication interface, which conform, respectively, to a first and a second communication standard, and a control unit coupled to the first and second communication interfaces. The control unit, according to Claim 28, is, adapted to set the second communication interface in an active state if the first communication interface detects that another apparatus is disconnected from the first communication interface when the second communication interface is in an inactive state. In addition, the second communication interface is recited as being capable of being used to communicate with another apparatus when the second communication interface is set in the active state, and as not being capable of being used to communication with another apparatus when in the inactive state.

Among other important features recited in Claim 28, is the control unit that is arranged so as to set the second communication interface in an active state if the first

communication interface detects that another apparatus is disconnected from the first communication interface when the second communication interface is in an inactive state, and that the second communication interface is capable of being used to communicate with another apparatus when in the active state, and is not capable of being used to communicate with another apparatus when in the inactive state. That is, the apparatus of Claim 28 controls switching active and inactive states between the first and second communication interfaces on the basis of a detected connection state of the first communication interface (in the embodiment of Fig. 6, certain of these elements may be read on elements 23, 31, 33 and 43; of course, it is to be understood that the claim scope is not limited by the details of that embodiment).

Nagao relates to a video conference apparatus which includes a PC interface unit 9, a facsimile interface unit 10 and an ISDN interface unit 12 (col. 12, lines 18-45, and columns 7 and 8). However, Applicants submit that nothing has been found in *Nagao* that would teach or suggest switching between active and inactive states of those three interfaces as recited in Claim 28 (from the Office Action, Applicants understand that the Examiner does not assert such switching to be present in the *Nagao* system.)

Tompkins relates to a video conference apparatus (see Fig. 1) which includes a telephone line interface 24 and an I/O apparatus interface 46 (col. 62, lines 6-27). However, Applicants also have not found anything in this patent that, in their view, would teach or suggest the recited switching of interface modes that is recited in Claim 28. Even if combined with *Nagao*, therefore (and even assuming such combination would be a proper one), the result would not meet the terms of Claim 28.

Independent Claim 42, is a method claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 28,

and is deemed allowable over *Nagao* and *Tompkins* for the same reasons as are discussed above in connection with Claim 28.

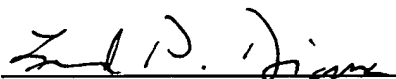
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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